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# SWANSEA PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

# ANNUAL REPORT

for the Year 1942

of the

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

by

H.R.TIGHE,M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Port Medical Officer of Health

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Port Health Offices,

10 Somerset Place.

SWANSEA

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## JURISDICTION OF THE PORT

The limits of the jurisdiction of the Port Health Authority as defined by the Order constituting the Authority are as follows:-

" All that part of the said Port of Swansea which lies on the landward side of a straight line drawn from the Mumbles Point to the South-eastern extremity of the said Port at Nash Point, together with the waters of the said Port of Swansea, within such limits, and all docks, basins, harbours, creeks, rivers, channels,roads, bays and streams within the aforesaid limits,and the place or places which may from time to time be appointed as the Customs Boarding Station or Stations for such part of the said Port and the place or places for the time being appointed for the mooring or anchoring of ships for such part of the said Port under any Regulations for the prevention of the spread of diseases issued under the Authority of the Statutes in that behalf, and for the purposes of any Regulations as aforesaid shall also extend to any ship which in pursuance thereof, or of any directions given thereunder, shall be moored or anchored at the place appointed thereunder as aforesaid, or which shall be on its way thither"

## CONTRIBUTING AUTHORITIES

The contributing Riparian Authorities are the County Borough of Swansea, the Boroughs of Port Talbot and Neath, the Urban District of Porthcawl and the Rural Districts of Cowbridge, Neath and Penybont.

## [illegible] OF THE FORT

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## THE SWANSEA PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

The membership of the Authority for the Year was as follows:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Councillor E.Walters. (Chairman) | County Borough of Swansea |
| Alderman G.H.Hollett | |
| Councillor A.Abberfield | |
| Councillor W.Evans | |
| Councillor T.S.Harris | |
| Councillor Dr.L.W.Hefferman | |
| Councillor S.C.Jenkins | |
| Councillor G.H.Libby | |
| Councillor W.G.Rees | |
| Councillor D.Richards | |
| Councillor W.P.Jenkins J.P. (Vice-Chairman) | Neath R.D.C. |
| (The Mayor) Councillor J.Shea J.P | Borough of Neath |
| Alderman R.Jenkins J.P | |
| Alderman J.H.Jones | Borough of Port Talbot |
| Councillor E.J.Morris | |
| Councillor G.Glenton | Porthcawl U.D.C. |
| Councillor George Lougher J.P. | Cowbridge R.D.C. |
| Councillor R.I.Nicholl | Penybont R.D.C. |

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## OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Clerk. H.L.Lang-Coath C.B.E.,

Medical Officer: H.R.Tighe M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer: Idwal Pugh M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

### Assistant Medical Officers

PORT TALBOT. W.W.Hellyer, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

NEATH DISTRICT. Thomas Imrie, M.B., Ch.B.

Treasurer W. B. Emmett

### Chief Inspector

* J. A. Davies, C.R.S.I.

### Assistant Inspectors

SWANSEA

* H.W.Baxter, C.R.S.I.

T.H.Hearne. C.R.S.I.

* T.J.Richards, Cert. S.I.B

* H.Bowen A.R.S.I

* D.O.Jenkins A.R.S.I.
Master Mariner's Certificate,
Board of Trade

PORT TALBOT. * R.W.Norman C.R.S.I. succeeded on May 12th by W.G.Munday. C.R.S.I.

NEATH DISTRICT. M.T.Johns

PORTHCAWL L.Mabley

Rat- Searcher: P.H.Jones

Medical Officer's Clerk:- A. Davies

Temporary Junior Clerk: Miss.M.D.Ackland

* Certificate of Meat and Foods.

To the Chairman and Members of the Swansea
Port Health Authority.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the Year 1942.

Owing to the continuance of the War, it again appears in modified form and for restricted circulation.

## STAFF

The following staff changes have occurred -

Mr.R.W.Norman, Assistant Inspector at Port Talbot resigned on February 14th, having received an appointment as Sanitary Inspector under Sutton and Cheam Urban District Council. He was succeeded on May 12th by Mr.W.G.Munday.

## INSPECTION OF SHIPPING

### TABLE A

| | Number Inspected:- By the Medical Officer of Health | By the Sanitary Inspector | Number reported to be defective | Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied. | Number of Vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | 60 | 3,534 | 337 | 330 | 6 |

Nuisances and defects found on vessels inspected numbered 538, of which 516 were remedied. In addition 138 verminous and dirty mattresses were destroyed. 186 written informal notices and 151 oral instructions were issued. Written notices are served in all cases except where the nuisance is being remedied forthwith. To enforce compliance with these notices and to investigate cases of sickness, 1,562 re-visits were made by your Inspectors.

A sample of drinking water on one vessel was thought to be unsatisfactory, and upon Bacteriological examination was found to contain B.coli, Intermediate Type 11, Type 11, and Irregular Types, 13 per hundred c.c. There were no true faecal B.coli. The ship's tanks were emptied and cleaned and refilled from the County Borough supply.

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS DEALT WITH

| Nature of Nuisance or Defects | Swansea. | Neath | Port Talbot | Porth-cawl. | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Forecastles, berths, cleaned, painted, etc. ... ... ... ... | 87 | 1 | 12 | - | 100 |
| Waterclosets, ditto ... ... ... ... | 45 | 1 | 1 | - | 47 |
| Defective or dirty water tanks or casks ... ... ... ... | 6 | - | 1 | - | 7 |
| Damp quarters caused by leaky decks over berths, unlines iron decks over berths and defective wood lining ... ... | 51 | - | 9 | - | 60 |
| Insufficient ventilation of crews' spaces ... ... ... ... | 2 | - | - | - | 2 |
| Defective ventilators in ditto ... ... ... ... | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Insufficient lighting: defective side ports, deck prisms, etc., ... | 28 | - | 10 | - | 38 |
| Ships' gear kept in crews' spaces ... ... ... ... | 9 | - | 1 | - | 10 |
| Defective bulkheads and floors in crews' spaces and W.C's ... ... | 5 | - | - | - | 5 |
| Foul accumulations on deck and quays ... ... ... ... | 14 | - | - | - | 14 |
| Defective or dirty food lockers ... ... | 1 | - | 3 | - | 4 |
| Defective cable chain casing in forecastle or defective or dirty alleyways, companionways ... ... | 5 | - | - | - | 5 |
| Defective and dirty bunks in forecastles ... ... | 6 | - | 2 | - | 8 |
| Defective and dirty cooks' galleys ... ... | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Defective and dirty vegetable lockers, pantries, food bins etc., ... | 2 | - | - | - | 2 |
| Insufficient heating: defective stoves and stove pipes, radiators etc., | 19 | 1 | 2 | - | 22 |
| Defective forecastle and berth doors ... ... | 2 | - | 3 | - | 5 |
| Ship's gear in W.C's bathrooms, etc. ... ... | 4 | - | - | - | 4 |
| Defective drainage in forecastles and berths ... ... | 23 | - | - | - | 23 |
| Verminous forecastles and berths ... ... | 47 | - | 13 | - | 60 |
| Defective and dirty fish rooms in steam trawlers ... ... | 11 | - | - | - | 11 |
| Defective seats in forecastle ... ... | - | - | 2 | - | 2 |
| Dirty messrooms, bathrooms, lavatories and wash-houses ... ... | 10 | - | 3 | - | 13 |
| Defective drainage, seats, doors, ventilation, pans, troughs, flushing, light, soil pipes etc. in W.C's ... ... | 73 | - | 15 | - | 88 |
| Ballast tank leaking into forecastles ... ... | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Defective wash-hand basins and waste pipes ... ... | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Steam Pipe leaking into alleyway ... ... | 3 | - | 1 | - | 4 |
| TOTALS:- ... ... | 455 | 4 | 79 | - | 538 |

## REMEDYING OF DEFECTS ON SHIP BOARD

It is found that there is less reluctance than in peace time to obtain structural alterations and the remedying of defects in general, provided that there is no pressure of time. There is much less objection with regard to expense.

In case of difficulty, the Inspector approaches the Board of Trade officials and these have been found to be very helpful.

## GALLEY WASTE AND ASHES

As in peace time, the Port Authority has continued to fail in the removal of galley waste and ashes from vessels. At the time of writing arrangements have been made for the removal of galley waste by the Swansea Borough Surveyor, but nuisance occasioned by accumulation of ashes on decks, etc., still remains as no facilities are provided in the Docks for the removal of such accumulations.

The Port Authority also continues to fail in the fendering off of vessels from quay sides in order to prevent the fouling of quays by latrine waste etc.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### TABLE C

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels

| Disease | No. of cases during the Year | | No. of vessels concerned |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Passengers. | Crew | |
| Malaria | - | 3 | 1 |
| Diphtheria | - | 4 | 4 |
| TOTALS | - | 7 | 5 |

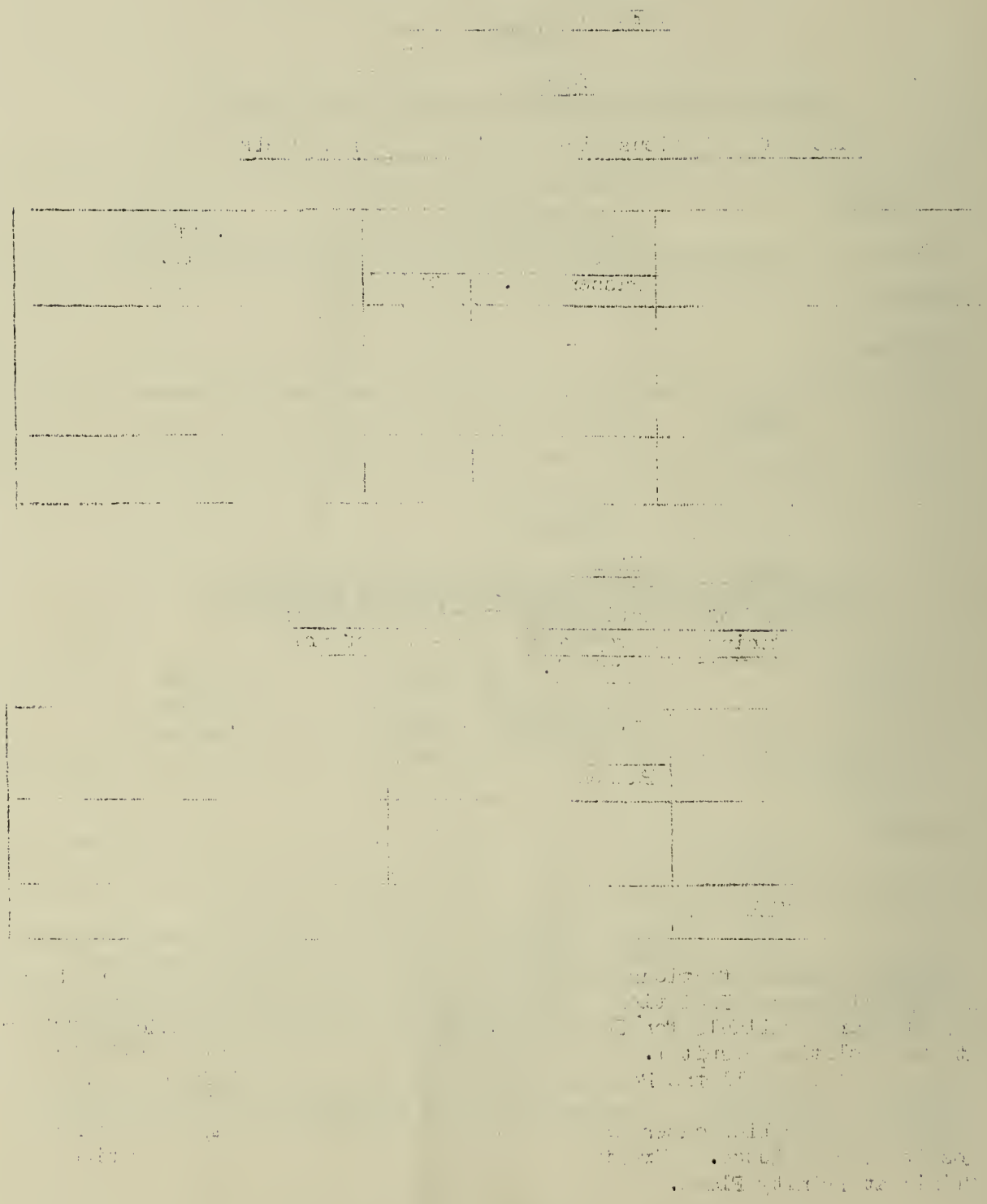
### TABLE D

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

| Disease | No. of cases during the Year | | No. of vessels concerned |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Passengers. | Crew | |
| Malaria | - | 1 | 1 |
| TOTALS | - | 1 | 1 |

The Infectious Diseases Hospitals of the Swansea Corporation namely Hill House Isolation Hospital and the neighbouring Smallpox Hospital are available for Port Cases. There is a Resident Medical Officer at the Isolation Hospital. The Corporation Ambulances remove patients to Hospital from all the Ports within the area of the Port Authority.

Scabies cases are admitted to the Swansea Public Assistance Hospital, Tawe Lodge. Treatment is also available at the Corporation Clinic at Trinity Place.



## VENEREAL DISEASES

In common with other Ports, Swansea has experienced an increase in Venereal Disease, more particularly Syphilis. The increase has been largely accounted for by the high rate of infection for foreign seamen, especially those coming from the Baltic provinces.

Cases from the Port of Swansea are referred to the Venereal Disease Clinic at the Swansea General Hospital.

This Clinic is open daily from 8.0.a.m. to 8.p.m. for intermediate treatment including ablution.

Clinic Sessions -

| | |
|---|---|
| Mon. | 2.p.m. |
| Tues. | 7.30.p.m. |
| Wed. | 10.30.a.m. |

A Venereal Disease Clinic at Port Talbot under the Glamorgan County Council serves the Ports of Neath and Port Talbot.

Clinic Bessions

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mon. | 2.30 - 4.30.p.m., | 5-6.p.m. |
| Tues. | 10.30.a.m. - 1.p.m. | |
| | 2-4.p.m, 5-6.p.m. | |

Beds are available at the Swansea Clinic for cases needing in-patient treatment.

The Masters of all vessels on arrival are notified of the facilities for free treatment at the above clinics and leaflets giving information on the dangers of these diseases and the facilities for free treatment available are supplied to the crews by the Inspectors.

## General Hospital Provision

All merchant seamen British or Foreign are now eligible for treatment as E.M.S. Patients at E.M.S. Hospitals, either as out-patients at Casualty Departments or as In-patients.

Masters of vessels are informed by the Port Health Inspectors of this provision.

The A.R.P. Casualty Service Ambulances as well as the Swansea Corporation Ambulances are available for the removal of seamen to Hospitals.

## RAT INFESTATION AND DERATISATION

SHIPS.

The rat population on board vessels appears to have increased during the years 1941 and 1942, according to the opinion of the Rat Officer.

In this connection, it must be borne in mind that during the Year 1942 all the vessels, except one, were fumigated with Hydrogen Cyanide, which may have resulted in a small number of dead rats being found exposed than would be the case if the vessels were fumigated by sulphur dioxide as the rats may have died in concealment. This is only an assumption as there was no evidence that the rats did so die.

Warehouse and Dock Areas

Since the outbreak of hostilities, in the opinion of the Rat Officer, there has been a steady increase in the rat population, which reached its peak about the Year 1941, with a corresponding decline up to the present time.

It must, however, be pointed out that this opinion is not supported by the number of rats destroyed, but of course these figures depend upon the intensity of the anti-rat measures employed.

It is not thought that there can be heavy infestation in the Dock Warehouses, as the general construction of the Warehouses is not conducive to harbourage, and goods do not now lie for any lengthy period in these warehouses as was the case in peace-time.

### RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR

TABLE E

(1) On Vessels

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Total number of rats destroyed in Year | - | 828 |
| " " " " Bacteriologically examined | - | 85 |
| " " " " infected with Plague | | Nil |

## TABLE F

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Total number of rats destroyed in year | - | 1,620 |
| " " " " bacteriologically examined | - | 126 |
| " " " " infected with Plague | - | Nil |

Rats destroyed in 5 years (Warehouses)

| | | | No. of Rats |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1938 | .... | ... | 1,135 |
| 1939 | ... | ... | 1,806 |
| 1940 | ... | ... | 1,544 |
| 1941 | ... | ... | 1,433 |
| 1942 | ... | ... | 1,620 |

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## TABLE H

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the Year

| No. of Ships. | No. of Deratisation Certificates issued. | | | | | No. of Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued. | Total Certificates issued. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | After fumigation with:- | | | After trapping poisoning etc. | TOTAL. | | |
| | H.C.N. | Sulphur | H.C.N.& Sulphur. | | | | |
| 108 | 20 | 1 | - | - | 21 | 87 | 108 |

## FUMIGATION OF VESSELS

The Swansea County Borough has continued to act as a contractor for the Cyanide fumigation of vessels. This work by direct administration has given every satisfaction. The Zklon Method is the one adopted.

A total of 56 vessels were subjected to fumigation. 46 fumigations were carried out by the Swansea Corporation Health Department as follows, 45 fumigations for rats, bugs and cockroaches and 1 after a case of Scabies. 8 fumigations were carried out by private contractors for the extermination of rats and bugs.

2 fumigations were also carried out by your Authority on 2 Vessels after cases of Scabies and a case of Venereal Disease.

### Hydrogen Cyanide Fumigations undertaken by the Swansea Corporation Health Department.

7 Vessels were fumigated throughout for rats.
1 Vessel had cabin fumigated for rats.
3 Trawlers were fumigated throughout for rats and bugs
3 vessels were fumigated for rats and bugs
1 vessel had accommodation, engine room and bunkers fumigated for rats and bugs.
1 vessel had accommodation and engine and boiler rooms fumigated, for rats and bugs.
2 vessels were fumigated throughout for rats,bugs and cockroaches.
1 vessel was fumigated throughout for rats and cockroaches.
1 vessel was fumigated throughout for bugs.
1 vessel had forecastles fumigated for bugs.
3 vessels had Officers and Crews' accommodations fumigated for bugs.
1 vessel had forecastles fumigated for bugs and lice.
11 vessels had their accommodations fumigated for bugs.
2 vessels were fumigated throughout for rats and cockroaches.
2 vessels were fumigated throughout for bugs and cockroaches.
1 vessel had all accommodation aft also galley and provision storerooms fumigated for cockroaches and bugs.
1 vessel had forecastles fumigated for cockroaches.
1 vessel had all accommodation and storerooms fumigated for cockroaches.
2 vessels had amidships accommodation fumigated for cockroaches.
1 vessel had the after accommodation fumigated after a case of Scabies.

The following H. C. N. and $SO_2$ FUMIGATIONS were performed by Private Contractors

(a) H. C. N.

5 Vessels were fumigated throughout for rats
1 Vessel had holds, forepeak and storerooms fumigated for rats.
1 vessel had Officers and Crews' accommodations fumigated for cockroaches.

(b) $SO_2$

1 Vessel was fumigated throughout for rats.

The following $SO_2$ Fumigations were performed by your Authority's Staff

1 Trawler had forecastle fumigated after a case of Venereal Disease.
1 Vessel had accommodation fumigated after a case of Scabies.

## WATER SUPPLY

Arrangements for the supply of water to vessels in the Port remain as in previous years and are from the following sources:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Swansea | - | County Borough main supply (chlorinated) |
| Neath and Briton Ferry. | | Neath Borough supply (chlorinated) |
| Port Talbot | | Port Talbot Borough supply (chlorinated)<br>Cwm Brombil Reservoir (not chlorinated) |
| Porthcawl | | The Urban District supply (chlorinated) |

The Cwm Brombill Reservoir is situated within the area of the Port Talbot Borough. It is not viewed with entire satisfaction but samples taken during the year for bacteriological examination proved satisfactory.

## FOOD INSPECTION

(1) Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations 1937; the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives etc. in Food) Regulations 1925 to 1927.

The arrangements of the preceding year continue.

### SUPERVISION OF FOOD IMPORTS

### The Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937

### Amount of Unsound Food-stuffs dealt with

| Description. | Tons | Cwts | Qrs | Lbs. | How disposed of |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Apples | 0 | 10 | 2 | 14 | M.O.F. Salvage Officer for pig food. |
| Bacon (pickled | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | To manure factory. |
| Beef | 1 | 15 | 0 | 16 | To manure factory |
| Butter | 0 | 1 | 2 | 13 | M.O.F. Salvage Officer |
| Fish | 2 | 13 | 2 | 14 | To Fish Meal Factory |
| Fruit (dried) | 9 | 13 | 3 | 7 | M.O.F. Salvage Officer |
| Fruit (Dried) | 0 | 7 | 2 | 0 | Destroyed |
| Ham | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | To manure factory |
| Margarine | 0 | 2 | 2 | 20 | To manure factory |
| Meat (Canned) | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | M.O.F. Salvage Officer |
| Meat (canned) | 0 | 10 | 1 | 6 | To manure factory |
| Mutton | 0 | 8 | 1 | 11 | To manure factory |
| Milk (evaporated) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 | Destroyed |
| Milk ( canned) | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | M.O.F. Salvage Officer |
| Milk (canned) | 0 | 7 | 1 | 17 | Destroyed |
| Miscellaneous Food-stuffs U.S.A. Army Stores. | 1 | 10 | 0 | 0 | Swansea Corporation Salvage Department |
| Orange Juice | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22 | Destroyed |
| Offal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | To manure factory |
| Ox Tails | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | To manure factory. |
| Potatoes | 20 | 6 | 0 | 0 | M.O.F. Salvage Officer for pig food. |
| Pork | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | To manure factory |
| Poultry | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | To manure factory |
| Sausages | 0 | 1 | 3 | 14 | To manure factory |
| Sugar | 2 | 10 | 3 | 7 | M.O.F. Salvage Officer |
| Wheat | 26 | 5 | 3 | 16 | Reconditioned for animal food |
| Wheat (cracked) | 2 | 14 | 1 | 0 | Destroyed |
| Wheat | 1 | 9 | 1 | 24 | Destroyed |
| Yeast | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | Destroyed |
| TOTAL | 71 | 16 | 1 | 3 | |

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ( IMPORTED MILK) REGULATIONS 1926

No milk, to which the above Regulations apply, was imported.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ( PRESERVATIVES, ETC. IN FOOD) REGULATIONS 1925 to 1927

It was not found necessary to take action under the above Regulations.

(2) Shell-fish.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ( SHELL-FISH) REGULATIONS 1934

OYSTER FISHERY. No Oyster landings were made within the area of the Authority during the year and no Oyster dredgers were licensed by the South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee. It is an offence to dredge for Oysters without a license and any offender will be prosecuted by the Fisheries Committee.

The provision of a closed area under bye-law 11 of the South Wales Sea Fisheries was made as an experiment and the Fisheries Committee are satisfied that it has served its purpose so they do not propose to apply for a renewal of the closure at present.

Cockles are to be obtained in Swansea Bay but the beds are not worked as an industry. The Fisheries Committee sow cockles in the Bay to encourage fish to come in to feed and the results have proved very successful.

It should be noted that some of the work of the Fisheries Committee has been interfered with unavoidably owing to conditions arising out of the War.

THE PARROTS ( PROHIBITION OF IMPORT) REGULATIONS 1930

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Parrots etc., which came under the Notice of the Officers during the Year | 4 |
| Number of Notices issued in respect of parrots etc. | 1 |
| Number exported in respect of notices served | 4 |
| Number destroyed | Nil |
| Number admitted under Ministry of Health permits | Nil |
| Bodies of birds sent for investigation of Ministry of Health. | Nil |
| Number transhipped on through bills | Nil |

## DANGEROUS DRUGS

No Certificates authorising the purchase or supply of Scheduled Dangerous Drugs were issued during the Year.

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In conclusion, I thank you, Mr.Chairman and Members of the Authority for your advice and support, the Officers of H.M.Customs, the Officers of H.M.Board of Trade, the Docks Officials, the Pilots and the Officers of the South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee for their co-operation and Assistance and I thank my colleagues of all grades on the Staff of the Authority for their help in carrying out the duties of the Port Health Authority.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. R. Tighe

Port Medical Officer of Health

E. Walters

Chairman.

Port Health Offices
10 Somerset Place.
SWANSEA.

APRIL 1943.